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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

October 1, 2010 Crop Prospects

Louisiana Crop Prospects

The 2010 crop year has been a tremendous year for Louisiana field crops. With harvest season coming to an end for many crops, farmers are seeing better yields than they expected. October yield estimates for Louisiana are at or above record-levels for soybean, rice, sorghum and hay. Good weather expedited harvesting, and many producers have completed or will complete harvest within the next few weeks.

Soybean production is expected to total 44 million bushels in Louisiana, up five percent from the September estimate and up 20 percent from 2009. Soybean acreage for harvest is forecast at 1,000,000 acres, up 60,000 acres from 2009. Yield is forecast at 44 bushels per acre, up two bushels from the previous month and up five bushels from last year. If realized, this will break the existing record of 43 bushels per acre set in 2007.

Louisiana **rice** production is forecast at 34.1 million cwt, unchanged from the previous month but up 17 percent from 2009. Rice acreage for harvest is forecast at 525,000 acres, up 61,000 acres from the 2009 crop. Yield per acre is forecast at 6,500 pounds, unchanged from the previous month but up 200 pounds from last year. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record.

Sorghum production is estimated at 8 million bushels in the state, down six percent from the September estimate but up 50 percent from 2009. Acreage expected for harvest was revised to 80,000 acres, up 15,000 acres from last year. Yield is forecast at 100 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month but up 18 bushels from a year ago. If realized, this would break the existing record of 97 bushels per acres set in 2005.

Louisiana production of **all hay** is estimated at 1.3 million tons, unchanged from the August estimate but up 23 percent from a year ago. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 410,000 acres, up 30,000 acres from 2009. Yield, at 3.2 tons per acre, is expected to be up 0.4 ton from last year. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record in the state.

Louisiana's **cotton** production is expected to total 440,000 bales, up seven percent from the September estimate and up 26 percent from last year. Acreage of cotton expected for harvest is forecast at 250,000 acres, up 25,000 acres from a year ago. The expected yield per acre, at 845 pounds, is up 58 pounds from the September forecast and up 100 pounds from 2009.

Louisiana's **corn** production is forecast at 75 million bushels, up four percent from the previous month's estimate but down seven percent from last year. Estimated production is up from last month as corn harvested acreage was revised to 500,000 acres, up 20,000 acres from the June 1 estimate. Yield per acre, at 150 bushels, is unchanged from last month but up 18 bushels from last year's yield.

The Louisiana **sugarcane** crop is estimated at 12.9 million net tons, unchanged from the previous month but down six percent from last year. Harvested acreage for sugar and seed is forecast at 415,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from last year. Yield is forecast at 31 net tons per acre, unchanged from the September estimate but down 1.2 net tons from last year.

Louisiana's **pecan** production is forecast at eight million pounds, compared to nine million pounds last year.

United States Crop Prospects

Soybean production is forecast at a record high 3.4 billion bushels, down two percent from September but one percent above last year. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average a record high 44.4 bushels per acre, down 0.3 bushel from last month but up 0.4 bushel from last year. Compared with last month, yields are forecast lower or unchanged in all major producing states except Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, New York and Wisconsin. The largest decreases in yield from last month are expected in North Carolina and Virginia, down five and four bushels, respectively. If realized, the forecasted yields in Illinois, Louisiana, Nebraska, New York, North Dakota and Wisconsin will be record highs and the forecasted yield in Minnesota will tie the previous record high. Area for harvest in the United States is forecast at 76.8 million acres, down one percent from the previous estimate but up one percent from 2009.

Acreage updates were made in several states based on administrative data.

Rice production is forecast at 242 million cwt, down five percent from the September forecast but up ten percent from last year. Area for harvest is expected to total 3.6 million acres, unchanged from September but up 17 percent from 2009. As of October 1, the average United States yield is forecast at 6,687 pounds per acre, down 360 pounds from the previous forecast and down 398 pounds from last year. Expected yields are down from last month in all states except California, Louisiana and Texas. Expected yields are up 100 pounds from the September forecast in California and unchanged from last month in Louisiana and Texas. If the forecast is realized, a new record-high yield will be achieved in Louisiana.

Sorghum production is forecast at 337 million bushels, down ten percent from the September 1 forecast and 12 percent below last year. Based on updated administrative information, acreage changes were made in several states. Planted area is estimated at 5.4 million acres, down ten percent from the previous forecast and down 19 percent from 2009. This is the lowest planted acreage on record. Harvested area is forecast at 4.7 million acres, down ten percent from the previous forecast and down 16 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest harvested acreage on record since 1936. Based on October 1 conditions, yield is forecast at 72.4 bushels per acre, down 0.3 bushel from September but up 3.0 bushels from last year. Record high yields are forecast in Louisiana and Texas.

All Hay production is forecast at 152.3 million tons, up three percent from last year. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 2.6 tons per acre, up 0.1 ton from last year. Harvested area, at 59.7 million acres, is virtually the same as the previous year.

All cotton production is forecast at 18.9 million 480-pound bales, up slightly from last month and up 55 percent from last year's 12.2 million bales. Yield is expected to average 841 pounds per harvested acre, up 64 pounds from last year. **Upland cotton** production is forecast at 18.4 million 480-pound bales, up fractionally from last month and 56 percent above 2009. Producers in Texas and the Delta region are expecting increased yields from last month while producers in the Southeastern region are expecting reduced yields. **American Pima** production, forecast at 497,800 bales, was carried forward from last month.

Corn production is forecast at 12.7 billion bushels, down four percent from the September forecast and down three percent from last year's record production of 13.1 billion bushels. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 155.8 bushels per acre, down 6.7 bushels from the previous month and 8.9 bushels below last year's record of 164.7 bushels. Forecasted yields decreased from last month throughout much of the Corn Belt and Tennessee Valley. Illinois showed the largest decline, down 14 bushels per acre. Indiana and Iowa are both down ten bushels from the previous month, while Missouri and Nebraska declined nine bushels per acre. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 81.3 million acres, up less than one percent from the September forecast. Acreage updates were made in several states based on administrative data.

Sugarcane production for sugar and seed is forecast at 30.2 million net tons, unchanged from the September 1 forecast but down one percent from 2009. Production decreases from last year are expected in Hawaii and Louisiana, while increases are expected in Florida and Texas. Producers intend to harvest 876,200 acres for sugar and seed in 2010, also unchanged from last month but up 2,300 acres from last year. In Texas, harvested acreage for sugar and seed is expected to total 52,000 acres. If realized, this will be a record high for the state. Conversely, producers in Hawaii are expected to harvest 17,200 acres for sugar and seed. If realized, this will be a record low for the state. Expected yield is forecast at 34.5 net tons per acre, unchanged from the September 1 forecast but down 0.3 net tons from 2009.

Pecan production is forecast at 271 million pounds (utilized, in-shell basis), seven percent below the 2009 production. When compared with last year, native production is forecast to be down in all states except Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Although this is a down year in the alternate bearing pattern, conditions have been favorable in these states. In Kansas, native variety production, at 2.3 million pounds, is expected to be the highest since 2005. Improved varieties are forecast below last year's production in all states except California, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas. Nationally, improved varieties are expected to produce 220 million pounds or 81 percent of the total, while native and seedling varieties, at 51 million pounds, make up the remaining 19 percent of production.

CROP REPORT – LOUISIANA							
October 1, 2010							
CROP	ACRES EXPECTED FOR HARVEST (000)		FORECAST YIELD PER ACRE		UNIT	FORECAST PRODUCTION (000)	
	2009	2010	2009	2010		2009	2010
Corn for grain	610	500	132	150	bushels	80,520	75,000
Upland Cotton	225	250	745	845	lbs:bales	349	440
Rice	464	525	6,300	6,500	lbs:cwt	29,217	34,125
Sorghum for grain	65	80	82	100	bushels	5,330	8,000
Soybeans	940	1,000	39	44	bushels	36,660	44,000
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	425	415	32.2	31.0	net tons	13,685	12,865
Hay, all	380	410	2.8	3.2	tons	1,064	1,312
Pecans, all	---	---	---	---	pounds	9,000	8,000

CROP REPORT - UNITED STATES							
October 1, 2010							
CROP	ACRES EXPECTED FOR HARVEST (000)		FORECAST YIELD PER ACRE		UNIT	FORECAST PRODUCTION (000)	
	2009	2010	2009	2010		2009	2010
Corn for grain	79,590	81,263	164.7	155.8	bushels	13,110,062	12,663,949
Cotton, all	7,529	10,773	777	841	lbs:bales	12,188	18,873
Rice	3,103	3,623	7,085	6,687	lbs:cwt	219,850	242,260
Sorghum for grain	5,520	4,658	69.4	72.4	bushels	382,983	337,229
Soybeans	76,372	76,823	44.0	44.4	bushels	3,359,011	3,408,211
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	873.9	876.2	34.8	34.5	net tons	30,432	30,209
Hay, all	59,755	59,656	2.47	2.55	tons	147,442	152,278
Pecans, all	---	---	---	---	pounds	291,830	271,300

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